

31 January 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting with Vitaut TUMASH

1. A meeting was effected between the undersigned and Vitaut TUMASH, the AEQUOR Covert Consultant, at the Hotel New Yorker, New York City on 25 January 1955. The order of business included:

- a. Transferral of \$246.00 as the salary for 1-31 December 1954;
- b. Refund to TUMASH of \$22.48 due him for expenses incurred during his trip to Washington for briefing;
- c. Signing of an Income Tax deduction form as requested by BF;
- d. Receipt of lists compiled upon the request of []. These lists included data on Byelorussian emigre organizations in France, Belgium and Italy with a brief summation of the emigre situation in those countries.
- e. Receipt of study material outline for comment, re: deletions or additions by Case Officer;
- f. Request for information on names supplied by CE.
- g. General discussion on the Byelorussian emigration as reported in the emigre press and the introduction of any new personalities.
- h. Setting 21 February (1330 hrs at the Statler, NYC) as the next contact date with 26 February as the alternate if the 21 February meeting is not effected.

2. The undersigned met TUMASH at the Hotel Governor Clinton in New York City at 1400 hrs, then went directly to the Hotel New Yorker, where a room had been acquired for the contact. TUMASH was given his salary plus the expenses he had incurred on his trip to Washington in December at which time he had briefed [] on the Byelorussian emigration in France, Belgium and Italy. TUMASH signed the receipts plus his income tax deduction form which had been given the Case Officer by Finance. It was explained

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to TUMASH that this form would automatically arrange for dependency deductions and it would not be necessary for him to make the declarations on Schedule 'C' as he did for 1954. He was further informed that he would be refunded the "no-dependency" deductions which had been taken out of the salary just given him.

3. Concerning the action and criticisms of a person, who signs himself CHMARA aka KHMARA in the BIELARUSKAYE SLOVA and the NARODNY KLYCH, against the BNR, TUMASH stated KHMARA was the pen name of SERGIUS SINIAK, a former member of the BNR who was ousted from the council in 1951. KHMARA, according to TUMASH, voiced negative criticisms against the BNR, denied the validity of the political platform and generally criticized the group. With his ouster, KHMARA tried to contact the ASTROUSKI group (BCR) with little success. His political platform takes on middle-of-the-road aspects, omitting democratic principles, with little to no influence on the emigration. Although he is ostensibly a writer by profession, his works have never been accepted as talented. He generally appeals to the workers and the less educated. His vulgarity and brutishness have earned him the scorn of the Byelorussian intelligentsia. The man is possessed with one primary thought--that of being a leader. At one time KHMARA received support from KENDYSH, but TUMASH believes that KENDYSH has withdrawn his support. He is now supported by Nicholas PANKO of New York city.

It is interesting to note that the publication NARODNY KLYCH, ostensibly issued in LONDON, is published in New York City and then forwarded to LONDON to create the illusion of support and cover in other areas outside the United States. It is a typewritten and mimeographed publication. TUMASH is certain that it is published in the United States, since he has compared the type found in the publication with that contained in letters that PANKO has sent to him and found them to be the same.

4. The study outlines submitted by TUMASH at this meeting contained an outline for the detailed work. It will be necessary to evaluate the outline in terms of current needs and then make suggestions for deletions or additions to the program. TUMASH is also compiling a list of the prominent people in the Byelorussian emigration whose opinions may have some influence on that ethnic group. It will be a fairly comprehensive effort setting forth biographic data plus aliases assumed by these persons. This is particularly important in that many of these individuals have applied for citizenship and are having a difficult time because the names on the passports and immigration lists, in many cases, do not correspond to the true name. TUMASH had one reservation on compiling this data -- he stated that he would give the information but would not assume any responsibility as the source.

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